



City of Lyons

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**MINUTES LYONS CITY COUNCIL/PLANNING COMMISSION
DELIVERY OF STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – RECAPS, GOALS & VISIONS
FEBRUARY 8, 2012**

OPEN MEETING 6:00 P.M.

The Lyons City Council Meeting/Planning Commission – Delivery of the State of the City Address was called to order by Mayor Doug Morgan. Present were City Councilors Mike Lucas, Troy Donohue and Dan Burroughs. Commissioner Lon Conner was excused. Also present were Planning Commissioners Darren Cross, Ed Jones and Steve Baldwin. Planning Commissioners Leanne Lail and Kimberly Hunn were not present. City Staff in attendance were City Manager Mary Mitchell and Administrative Assistant Tami Owen. Assistant City Manager Audrey McNerney was excused.

GUESTS. George L. Geddes, Michelle Gates, Neola Reeves, Christine Ruck, Gary Alkire, Kathy Keeney, Julie Morgan, Newell Robison and Marc Hughes.

Mayor Morgan asked that all stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. After the Pledge of Allegiance the meeting continued.

Mayor Morgan introduced Christine Ruck who is running for election as Linn County Commissioner. Ms. Ruck gave a summary of her background which was in engineering, auditing and problem solving. She commented that these were similar tasks to those of a County Commissioner. She asked if anyone had any questions. Neola Reeves commented that on the fact that taxes were being paid to fund 4H groups but, other than a small group in Mill City, she didn't see any local benefit. Ms. Ruck asked Mrs. Reeves to get together with her after the meeting to discuss this issue.

Morgan stated that Darren Cross was to be sworn in as a Planning Commissioner. Mitchell recited the oath of office with Cross and he was sworn in as a member of Lyons Planning Commission.

Morgan stated that the purpose of tonight's meeting was to address the state of the City and to give, from the different perspectives of what the Councilors and Planning Commissioners are in charge of, where we are and where we are headed. He said that he would start out with his address, move to the Councilors and to the Planning Commission members.

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A copy of Mayor Morgan's Address is attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof by reference.

Morgan advised that each Councilor hold a commissionership and each one of the Planning Commissioners holds a liaison position.

MIKE LUCAS – CEMETERY COMMISSIONER. Lucas stated that he had broken his report into two different areas. One is the recent past and the second future goals. He referred to the new trees and shrubs which have been planted in and around the cemetery, a new fence which was erected to keep livestock out and the work done to make and keep the cemetery presentable. Two years ago children from the Mari-Linn School formed a work party at the cemetery and pruned shrubbery, cleaned gravestones as well as other miscellaneous chores which dramatically improved the looks of the cemetery. There has been a problem with ground squirrels and/or gophers and the City had hired a professional to trap them. This made the numbers smaller but didn't totally eradicate them. After doing a cost analysis it was felt that it might be practical for Public Works employees to trap the rodents. To that end the City has purchased traps which will be set when the ground is drier. Some of the headstones have been neglected over the years and it is the goal of the City, when funds are available, to straighten the ones that need straightening, put underlying cement where necessary and to place markers on those graves that have been abandoned, having only a temporary marker associated with them. Lucas provided a sample of the marker which could be placed on those graves. Another goal is to make the cemetery, which is within the Urban Growth Boundary but outside of the City limits, a part of the City. Hopefully in the coming year the City will be able to reach some of these goals and continue to make the Cemetery more attractive.

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER – DAN BURROUGHS. Burroughs reported that the last big street project was the paving of 13th Street which took place a few years ago. This year the City has sealed cracks on the roadways on Dogwood, Cedar Street, and 3rd Street and on the City Hall parking lot which will keep water from eroding the pavement. The Public Works employees also patched a hole on Juniper Street. Work is continuing with regard to the drainage for 24th Street which is an ongoing project. The flooding in that area is presently under control. In the future the City intends to fill some sinkholes on 7th Street and Elm Street by patching them with temporary black top and will continue to work on the 24th Street drainage issues.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER – TROY DONOHUE. Donohue stated that he had nothing to report at this time since most of the current issues were with the Library building.

LON CONNER – LIBRARY COMMISSIONER. Morgan reported that Conner is unable to be here this evening since he has been called out of town.

DARREN CROSS- PLANNING COMMISSIONER – LIAISON TO THE LYONS-MEHAMA WATER DISTRICT AND THE WATERSHED COUNCIL. Cross stated that as a liaison to the Water District he had attended several meetings with a goal of looking for common interests between the Water District and the City to report to Council. For example, he said that he was able to bring back and

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share with Council what the Lyons Fire District is planning with the Water District with regard to the testing of the City fire hydrants which are not owned by the City. He explained that the Watershed Council is a community non-profit group that meets monthly in Stayton. Their goals are for restoring healthy watersheds and maintaining the economic viability of those watersheds. They are looking at “in stream restoration” for fish recovery and emergency management with regard to the dams and anything that could disrupt the river. In that regard they are trying to build a network between the many agencies, cities, counties, state and federal. With regard to next year he stated that he will continue to look for those common interests and opportunities to incorporate some of the work that has been done with the City’s storm water drainage plan and the Watershed’s restoration opportunities with Trask Creek. He said that he will also continue working toward better relations with the Water District.

KIMBERLY HUNN – PLANNING COMMISSIONER – EMERGENCY PLANNING AND COORDINATION LIAISON. Morgan stated that Ms. Hunn was not present at the meeting to make a report.

ED JONES – PLANNING COMMISSIONER – LYONS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT LIAISON. Jones reported that there had been many things going on at the Fire District other than their normal duties. They have been required to do a lot of repairs on their vehicles to keep them in good running order. They plan to introduce a new bond measure this year for equipment only. The financial impact to the citizens of Lyons will not be as great as the previous bond measure introduced by them last year which failed. This bond issue will be to replace four vehicles which are continually in need of costly repairs. They applied for a FEMA grant for major equipment which was turned down. At the present time they have a leak in the roof and were unable to get a consensus of opinion as to where the leak was and how to repair it which resulted in their calling in a “roof consultant.” At his recommendation they plan to publish a Request for Proposals from local contractors to do the necessary work. It will take approximately one month to select a contractor. The actual repair work will take approximately 2 weeks. The cost of this repair will be approximately \$85,000. The Fire District is also still in the process of installing a siren which, when installed, will be run between 7 A.M. and 7 P.M. for emergencies and fires. They will have a special sound for disasters. Equipment was stolen from an ambulance when they were at the Santiam Hospital in Stayton the cost of replacement of which was covered by insurance. He commented that the Fire District had been in his neighborhood three times in the past few weeks and that the responders were nice, respectful and willing to explain what was happening to the parties involved. He stressed that the citizens of Lyons should support their efforts.

STEVE BALDWIN – PLANNING COMMISSIONER – (INCOMING) NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON. Baldwin commented that he had taken a year off from Planning Commission but that he previously had been the City’s School District Liaison. He also stated that he is currently a member of the North Santiam School District’s Budget Committee and can attest to the fact that the School District’s Superintendant is very fiscally conservative and believes in using the District’s and the taxpayer’s money wisely. With regard to the rumors that the Mari-Linn School might be closed he assured Council that the current board and/or leadership is not even contemplating such a closure.

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Mari-Linn School will stay open so long as the current Board is in place. Baldwin went on to say that he will continue to attend the School Board meetings as the City's representative.

LEANNE LAIL – PLANNING COMMISSIONER (RETIRING) NORTH SANTIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT LIAISON/ (INCOMING) COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES LIAISON.

Morgan stated that Ms. Lail was not present at the meeting to make a report.

Morgan then opened the meeting for any questions or comments.

There was a question with regard to the safety of the dam and the danger to the City of Lyons should the dam break. Jones stated that he had spoken to the Corps of Engineers and had been assured that the dam is inspected and maintained on a regular basis. Morgan stated that he had been advised by the Corps of Engineers that these are two of the best dams in the State of Oregon and low on the list of dams that could be a problem. He went on to state that the City also has emergency plans in place to deal with such an emergency should it arise.

Mr. Geddes asked what the process was for annexing property into the City. Morgan responded that staff is presently looking into that process which has changed over the years. There was discussion regarding whether or not a vote would be required and what areas were being considered by the City for annexation.

There was a question for Mr. Donohue regarding his comment on building issues at the Library. Donohue stated that there was no issue with the structure of the Library but that Council is working with resolving some ADA issues. He went on to state that those issues are being addressed diligently by Council.

There was a question asked regarding whether the City plans to annex Mehama. Morgan responded by referring on a map to the areas which are within in the City's Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). He mentioned the fact that the Fox Valley Cemetery which is owned and maintained by the City is outside of the City Limits. He said that the City is looking at whether there are logical areas that should be incorporated within the City boundaries that are already within the UGB. He said that it is his opinion that for long term grown the City needs some sort of attachment to Highway 22.

Michelle Gates, on behalf of the North Santiam Chamber of Commerce, invited all present to attend the State of the County (Marion County) address being held on February 22, 2012. She said the Chamber of Commerce is also hosting an awards night on April 25, 2012 and as a member of the Chamber the City is invited to make nominations for the non-profit corporation of the year, the business of the year, the youth of the year and/or citizen of the year. She distributed nomination forms.

In response to a comment from Councilor Lucas, Morgan stated that as a Council we are looking at what our vision is for the community, what our identity is as a community and what our role is as a Council. He said that government plays a limited but important role which can be direction and leadership. Morgan said that he would like to look ahead as to where we want to be 30 to 40 years from now. Morgan went on to state that Council is doing a good job in determining what its role is in City government, what any

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city government should be doing and what the priorities are in this community. For example our library is an important priority in this community. The City spends at least 15% of City funds for the library. He said that he felt that Council is doing a good job in assessing priorities and moving forward.

He thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Audrey McNerney
Assistant City Manager

EXHIBIT A

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To Lyons City Council, City Manager Mary M., City Staff, and Residents,

I address you tonight to talk about the state of our wonderful city over the last year and to take a look at where we are going in the future. I appreciate this opportunity to discuss this with you and do not take for granted the time and effort all of you give to this great place in which we live.

I would like to start out this evening by looking back at the past year. It has been an interesting year, full of highs and lows. From a city government stand point, we have seen some wonderful things happen that will have an impact on this community for years to come. We were able to team up with private companies and individuals to complete an extensive city beautification project. This project was responsible for planting hundreds of trees and bushes around the city that will grow and become established fixtures in our area. This is the type of thing that some may not appreciate or even notice now, but will be something that will be looked upon years and even decades from now with gratitude. As a city it has been a goal to continue to make our facilities more enjoyable for all. We have seen upgrades at our library and city hall buildings as well as to our parks. We have hired on more staff to take care of what we have and to ensure that all we do is done at the highest level. We have also seen the churches and the faith-based community of our area become more active. Josephs Storehouse, the local food bank, is serving over 150 different needy families. The growth of this project is just one sign of how these tough times can be counteracted with good people. These are visible things that you can look at and see improving within our community.

There are other things that we have done within city hall that are not so easily noticed. This year has been a year of continued organization. We have made good changes to make what we do a more efficient process. Even how we conduct our monthly council meetings has changed for the better. This has helped improve on our lines of communication with the public. As a community grows, it is imperative that we not take our eyes off this goal. In another area, we had an engineering firm conduct a drainage study of our city and now have something we can use to improve how water flows through our

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community. These types of things are keys to working with other agencies to improve our infrastructure. These are not necessarily things that are highly visible but none the less very important.

One of the areas that we as a city are working on currently is the long term direction of city government. What is the identity of this community and what our role in that is. It should be a priority for any city government to provide for the safety and needs of its residents. To make sure that the long term health of the community is established. We are looking at several areas to make sure that this is a front burner priority. These include making sure that all new organizations that want to do business within our city are held to the same standard as everyone else and that goes for established companies and agencies as well. We are not to treat or give special favor to one over another. The city government is to work for all its residents. Another area that we are looking at is bringing into the city, areas within our urban growth boundaries that make sense long term. For instance, we spend city monies for a cemetery that is not within city limits. Another example is our connection with our local highway. The long term health of this city will most likely be tied to whether or not we have a connection with Highway 22. History of other cities and communities has proven to show us this reality. These are things that logically should be addressed.

Many of these are long term vision goals that as a community we have a responsibility to look at. These are very difficult times financially as we all know. How we work together towards the same goals will determine the health of this community for years to come. We all love the community of Lyons and want it to stay a wonderful place to live. Together in unity and with direction, we can make sure that it stays that way.

Respectfully yours,

Doug Morgan
Mayor, City of Lyons